CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. A method for diagnosing congestive heart failure (CHF) in a subject, comprising the steps of:

A) contacting a monoclonal antibody specific for a glycophorin antigen with a biological fluid obtained from said subject under conditions such that an antibody-antigen binding complex forms between said monoclonal antibody and said glycophorin antigen present in said biological fluid; and

B) detecting said antibody-antigen binding complex wherein the presence of said antibody-antigen binding complex is diagnostic for congestive heart failure (CHF).

Claim 2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said biological fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood, blood products, urine, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid and lymphatic fluid.

Claim 3. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said monoclonal antibody is 3F4 and recognizes amino acid residues 5-25 of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 4. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said monoclonal antibody is 6G4 and recognizes amino acid residues 39-45 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 5. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said monoclonal antibody is 5F4 and recognizes amino acid residues 107-119 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 6. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said glycophorin antigen is a truncated glycophorin.

Claim 7. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises the steps of:

A) contacting said antibody-antigen binding complex with a polyclonal antibody corresponding to said glycophorin antigen under conditions such that a complex forms between said glycophorin antigen and said polyclonal antibody;

B) attaching a label to a polyclonal antibody corresponding to the polyclonal antibody of step A;

C) contacting the complex formed in step A with the labeled polyclonal antibody formed in step B under conditions such that a complex forms between said labeled polyclonal antibody and said polyclonal antibody of step A; and

C) detecting the label on said labeled polyclonal antibody.

Claim 8. The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the label on said labeled polyclonal antibody comprises a signal generating substance.

Claim 9. The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said signal generating substance is peroxidase.